

Schedule I controlled substances. Additionally, as of October 4, 2011, the DEA has 3,983 active registrants who manufacture, research, and conduct chemical analysis with Schedule I controlled substances. I encourage the scientific community to continue their efforts to understand these and other drugs.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF NOEL CUNNINGHAM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to honor the life of Noel Cunningham, a restaurateur and philanthropist I had the pleasure of knowing for almost 20 years.

A resident of Denver, Noel was a true citizen of the world. Born in Ireland in 1949, he went to work at London's famed Savoy Hotel, achieving the rank of sous chef by age 23, before moving to California in the 1970's. In 1986 he moved to Denver and opened Strings, a bistro in Denver's Capitol Hill neighborhood that quickly became a community institution, hosting local celebrities, politicians, community and charity events and romantic date-nights.

While his professional biography will be defined by his extraordinary culinary talents, Noel's legacy will forever be based on the impact his philanthropic efforts had in Denver and across the world.

While in California he met Pat Miller, the noted restaurant critic known as the "Gabby Gourmet," and the two developed a lifelong friendship. Together, they started "Taste of the Nation," a nation-wide fundraiser that by 2010 had raised almost \$80 million to fight hunger and poverty across the United States.

With his wife Tammy, Noel founded The Cunningham Foundation, which included Quarters for Kids, to help educate children about local hunger and homelessness, and 4 Quarters for Kids, a project he named in reference to the four quarters it takes per day to provide an Ethiopian child with breakfast, lunch, a school uniform, and a teacher and books. Firm in his belief that philanthropy could strengthen a local community while enriching the lives of those across the globe, Noel targeted 4 Quarters primarily to local children, who held carwashes, concerts, pledge drives, and silent auctions to help create a better future for their Ethiopian peers.

Noel was active with the local Volunteers of America, and served on the board of the national nonprofit Share Our Strength. On week-day afternoons, it was not uncommon to drive by Strings and see Noel serving meals to the homeless in between the persistent lunch and dinner rushes. He was committed to building a better community, both locally and globally, and was not afraid to enlist the help of others to achieve his goals; he worked with local hospitals to provide life-saving treatments for Ethiopian children, and local businesses to ship supplies and other necessities to Africa. He founded "A Dinner of Unconditional Love"—a charity dinner to raise funds for Dr. Rick Hodes, an American Doctor living in Ethiopia whose mission is to help heal the poor—and had planned to expand the program across

the country so that he could raise the \$10 million Hodes needs to build his own hospital in Ethiopia.

Mr. Speaker, from the streets of Denver to the farms of Ethiopia, Noel Cunningham spent each and every day making a difference in the lives of those around him. Never content to settle, he pursued perfection in his restaurant and in his charitable endeavors, never once falling short in all the years I have known him. His life stands as proof that any individual can have an extraordinary impact, and his tragic passing leaves a monumental crater in the global community that spans from Denver to Ethiopia and beyond.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,052,444,423,722.81. We've added \$10,251,039,248,428.53 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR HENRY FORD HEALTH SYSTEMS

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise today to recognize the achievements of the Henry Ford Health System which, under the strong and dynamic leadership of its CEO, Nancy Schlichting, has earned a 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. This award recognizes and encourages benchmark business practices; once reserved only for manufacturing and similar businesses, the Baldrige Award has been expanded to include health care organizations. As a recipient of the Baldrige award, Henry Ford Health System continues to serve as a role model for other companies across the country. The award puts a spotlight on the amazing work being done at the Henry Ford Health System to deliver top quality health care to its patients.

Henry Ford Health System has established itself as one of the Nation's premier health care providers. Henry Ford Health System uses innovative strategies and solutions which have been developed and implemented for the past decade, helping reduce unintended patient harm and establishing a "zero-defect, no-excuses" approach to health care outcomes. Over the years, the Henry Ford Health System has developed a reputation for delivering the best possible outcomes for patients. Because of this dedication to putting patients first, it is one of just 4 organizations around the Nation

to receive this award and the only one in Michigan.

With approximately \$5.8 billion in economic impact through payroll, operating expense and capital expenditures, Henry Ford Health System is not only an effective health care entity, but a major contributor to Michigan's economy. As a top 5 employer in Southeast Michigan, the Henry Ford Health System boasts an impressive 24,000 employees and is responsible for 37,500 additional jobs through direct and indirect employment at 7 hospitals and 33 ambulatory care sites. With more than 2,000 physicians system wide, it is also one of the Nation's largest non-university research programs.

Earning the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award is no easy feat, with many companies each year following the Baldrige criteria as a model for proper organization and action. Henry Ford Health Systems now joins the ranks of companies such as Boeing Aerospace Support, Cadillac, and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company as innovators in their respective fields.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Henry Ford Health System and the 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award that it has earned. The Henry Ford Health System's achievements serve as a beacon to other businesses countrywide.

FARM DUST REGULATION
PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act.

This bipartisan legislation is necessary to ensure that farmers and ranchers will not be subjected to excessive regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA currently has the ability to tighten regulatory standards for dust under the Clean Air Act.

Should the EPA do so, farmers, ranchers, and rural economies could be devastated. On dry days, production could come to a standstill as producers focus on controlling dust rather than producing food.

After months of receiving questions and concerns from farmers, ranchers, and their Representatives in Congress, the Administrator of the EPA finally stated that her agency does not intend to change the current standards.

However, as long as EPA Administrator Jackson retains unchecked power to implement stricter standards, farmers and ranchers could be subject to oppressive regulations at any time.

A legislative fix is the only way to give farmers and ranchers the certainty they need to invest in the future without worrying about the influence of overzealous activists on EPA's regulations.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN HONOR OF BOB CONNERS UPON
HIS RETIREMENT FROM 610-WTVN

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Bob Connors upon his retirement from 610-WTVN Columbus.

The often transient nature of a career in radio remains a hard truth for those who choose this field. The industry sometimes forces these men and women to relocate to different stations and towns across the country. These individuals come and go, sometimes without developing a strong connection with a community. Over the years, however, one voice has remained a mainstay in Columbus, representing the pinnacle of morning radio hosting. As a proud central Ohioan and occasional guest on his show, I am deeply honored to show my sincere appreciation for one of the greatest radio hosts in this city's history, Bob Connors.

Bob came to Columbus from Pittsburgh over 40 years ago and since then has brought acclaim to and instilled pride in the central Ohio community. His morning show, Bob Connors in the Morning became one of the most popular shows in the area, attracting listeners from miles around. Known as the "Morning Monarch" for his longstanding service to the station, Bob eloquently presented national and local news, along with sports, weather and traffic reports.

For years he delivered the news to millions of citizens. His on-air disposition and the consistency of his presence made waking up to his voice a pleasurable morning routine for an entire generation. I fondly remember listening to his show when I was growing up and how honored I was each time I was asked to speak with him on-air.

While he has retired from hosting the show, Bob's legacy and uplifting presence will resonate throughout our community for years to come. I am proud to wish him the best of luck as he moves on to the next exciting phase in his life. He not only remains one of the city's most recognizable voices, he also is one of Columbus's favorite sons.

SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 1254, the "Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011."

I share the concerns that supporters of this bill have about the sale of synthetic drugs that are determined to be harmful. The issue here is what process should be used to determine whether a drug is harmful and should be banned. I oppose this bill because it circumvents the established process for scheduling controlled substances as illegal for any uses without proper scientific review. This bill short-circuits that process and substitutes the less-informed judgment of Congress for the

more considered view of scientists and experts.

We already have a process for banning drugs temporarily on an emergency basis. Indeed, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has temporarily prohibited the sale or manufacture of many of the compounds banned in this bill as more in-depth scientific reviews are conducted. I also support Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's decision to ban the sale of many of these drugs in the State. I believe that the temporary ban by the DEA and the State bans of these drugs are sufficient at this point to protect our society from the harms caused by these synthetic drugs. Congress should only act to add these drugs to the list of Schedule I controlled substances after the process laid out in the Controlled Substance Act is completed.

The process established in the Controlled Substance Act requires that the Attorney General request from the Secretary of Health and Human Services "a scientific and medical evaluation, and his recommendations, as to whether such drug or other substances should be so controlled. . . ." This process is important for many reasons and should not be circumvented by this bill. Without proper scientific review this bill could create significant hurdles for medical research of cures and treatments for various diseases. During the bill mark up in the Judiciary Committee, statements from medical researchers were submitted stating that this bill could hamper their ability to determine lawful uses of these substances by making them illegal to possess. R. Gil Kerlikowske, the Director of the Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), stated that these drugs are dangerous, but acknowledged that there is "a lack of sufficient data regarding the prevalence of bath salt stimulant drugs." Additionally, the penalties for possessing and distributing Schedule I drugs are serious. Adding over 35 additional substances to the list of Schedule I drugs, for which people can be incarcerated, should not be taken lightly by Congress.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 8, I was unavoidably detained in Illinois attending to district/constituent matters and missed recorded votes for H. Res. 487, H.R. 1633, the Farm Dust Regulation Prevention Act, and H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act.

If I had been present, I would have recorded my vote as a nay for rollcall vote 902, nay for rollcall vote 903, nay for rollcall vote 904, and nay for rollcall vote 905.

As I have confirmed in a number of meetings and correspondence, I do not support efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate fine and coarse particulate matter or "farm dust". While the EPA exists to protect the health of Americans and the stability of our environment, I am concerned by overly burdensome regulations and the impact they have on our smaller businesses and family

farms. With that said, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has explicitly stated that she has no intention of revising any regulations on "farm dust". H.R. 1633 is another waste of the House's time and energy, as the clock continues to tick down on much more important issues like Unemployment Insurance and the payroll tax holiday.

For that reason, had I been present I would have recorded my vote as yea for rollcall vote 906, yea for rollcall vote 907, yea for rollcall vote 908, yea for rollcall vote 909, yea for rollcall vote 910, yea for rollcall vote 911 and nay for rollcall vote 912.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Eric Thomas Pugnet for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Eric has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER PUBLIC PRINTER ROBERT W. HOUK

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Public Printer of the United States Robert W. Houk, who passed away unexpectedly on Sunday.

Mr. Houk, a Michigan native who later moved to Shelby, Ohio, was a graduate of Michigan State University and Wayne State University. He was a proud U.S. Army veteran, rising to the rank of first lieutenant after serving throughout Europe during World War II and serving stateside during the Korean Conflict.

The management and leadership skills he learned in the Army were put to good use during his long and impressive career in the business world. He worked for the Ford Motor Company and at Detroit's Rotary Manifold before cofounding UFORMA/Shelby Business Forms in 1966. For more than two decades, he served as UFORMA's president and chief executive officer.

Mr. Houk's leadership in the printing industry was widely recognized by his peers. He was tapped as chairman of the board of International Business Forms Industries in 1976 and as chairman of the Printing Industries of America in 1987. Business Forms and Systems magazine named him Man of the Year in 1980.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush appointed Mr. Houk as the 22nd Public Printer of